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Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Fouad **Rajeh** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 28th plenary meeting, on 13 October 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 20th and 22nd meetings, on 21 and 26 November 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/58/SR.20 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/58/539) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/58/591).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.25

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Ireland, coordinator of the informal consultations on this item, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia" (A/C.5/58/L.25).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.25 without a vote (see para. 6).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1497 (2003) of 1 August 2003, by which the Council declared its readiness to establish a United Nations stabilization force to support the transitional government and to assist in the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement for Liberia,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1509 (2003) of 19 September 2003, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Mission in Liberia for a period of twelve months,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolution of the Security Council,

1. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

2. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

3. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

4. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

[1] A/58/539.
[2] A/58/591.

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

6. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to make efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004

9. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the purpose of accounting for income received and expenditure incurred in respect of the Mission;

10. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in Liberia the amount of 564,494,300 United States dollars for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004, inclusive of the amount of 47,462,700 dollars previously authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the operation of the Mission under the terms of section IV of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2003;

Financing of the appropriation

11. *Decides also* to apportion among Member States the amount of 450 million dollars at a monthly rate of 40,909,090 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 of 23 December 2000 and 57/290 A of 20 December 2002, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2003 and 2004, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000, 57/4 B of 20 December 2002 and 58/__ of _____;[3]

12. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 11 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 5,210,000 dollars at a monthly rate of 473,636 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pursue through collaboration between the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, and the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire, opportunities for optimizing, where possible, the provision and management of support resources and service delivery to the three missions;

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[3] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

14. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the utilization of the strategic deployment stocks to the Mission at the start-up stage;

16. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

17. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

18. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia".